

Community wall-painting project a success, more events planned

BY LEE STEPHENS

In the early morning of Saturday, Jan. 21, passersby on SW 112th Avenue were greeted by the sight of three dozen volunteers busily rolling paint onto the long subdivision wall that borders the west side of Fairway Estates between SW 163rd Street and SW 165th Terrace.

Within two hours, the painters had covered the badly weathered, 750-foot-long wall with a gleaming bright coat of golden mustard-colored paint.

The wall-painting project was carefully planned and organized by Miami-Dade County's Team Metro and received the support of the office of District 9 Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis C. Moss. The planning team depended heavily on the survey work and previous experience of the Fairway Estates Homeowners Association (FEHA), which had painted its long subdivision walls back in 1991-92.

The majority of painting volunteers were gathered from Team Metro, Greater Miami Service Corps, Palmetto High School, FEHA, Colonial Crime Watch, and residents whose properties adjoined or faced the wall, including some from the Lazarus/ Sugar Pines Community on the west side of SW 112th Avenue.

Notable among the workers were Major Victor Ramirez, new commander of the MDPD Cutler Police District; Catherine Minnis, regional coordinator, and Wette Cunningham, outreach supervisor, from the Kendall Office of Team Metro; Yolanda Brown Dotson, district coordinator for Commissioner Moss, and Daniel Millott, Victor Tamariz and Carol Vilberg, president and vice presidents of the Fairway Estates Homeowners Association.

Rounding out the leadership team were Robert Holley, FEHA secretary and chairperson of Colonial Crime Watch; Susan Blake, chairperson of the Cutler District MDPD Citizen's Advisory Committee, and Lazarus/Sugar Pines resident Rene Oppeneiger. The trio inspired, planned, and managed the two 1991-92 community wall paintings — the largest of which was called "the Great Wall Project."

The Saturday morning painting effort was precursor to a much bigger one that will start in early March. The second wall-painting project will tackle the 1.5-mile-long, five-to-seve-foot wall along the south side of SW 152nd Street, from about SW 98th Avenue westward to SW 112th Avenue. It has been dubbed "the Great Wall," the same nickname it received dur-



Volunteers gathered on Saturday, Jan. 21, to paint the Fairway Estates subdivision wall along SW 112th Avenue.



ing the 1991-92 painting project. Pressure cleaning of the very moldy and dirty wall surface will be undertaken in February.

The project planning team is seeking volunteers, both for painting and to serve as coordinators and supervisors for the three or four March weekends it will like-

ly take to paint the SW 152nd Street wall.

Organizers hope to draw heavily on participation from the local schools, Coral Reef High School is right across the street from a large wall section.

Those who would like to participate in the project may contact Team Metro at

305-437-5485; Robert Holley, weekdays at 305-348-2937; Carol Vilberg at 305-378-5565; or send email to <fehacw@netscape.net>. Painting schedules, information, and progress reports will be posted on the FEHA's website at <www.FairwayEstatesHOA.com>.